

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

RI Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2010

Sue Barker	Greenways Alliance of RI
Denise Poyer	Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Meg Kerr	RI Blueways Alliance
Colleen McGrath	Friends of Ballard Park
Bill McCormick	RI Trials Club
Roy Najecki	RI Land Trust Council
Henry Cruciani	Appalachian Mountain Club
Jay B. Aron	RIDEM, Forestry
Robert Butler	New England Four Wheel Drive Club
Kevin Nelson	Statewide Planning
Lisa Primiano	RI DEM, Planning & Development
Steve Church	RIDOT
Gregg J. Cassidy	RI DEM, Planning & Development
Barbara Kilcup	Yankee Trailers

Meeting called to order at 3:36 PM.

Review of meeting minutes for the December 15, 2009 meeting. Kevin Nelson pointed out a typographical error on page 3.

1. Motion to accept meeting minutes of December 16, 2008 meeting, with corrections, made by Sue Barker and seconded by Denise Poyer. **Approved.**
2. Status of existing grants
 - o Gregg Cassidy summarized grant projects that have not yet been completed. This included:
 - Large grants. \$186,496 for five projects from the 2003 and 2005 grants rounds that were delayed due to archeological and environmental review.
 - Materials Only grants \$37,287 for 16 grants awarded in the past that are in various stages of completion.

3. Budget

Lisa Primiano gave an update of funds available for the current grant round. Excluding funds reserved for grant commitments there is \$496,112 available for the pending grant round. Several people questioned whether the outstanding grants from previous grant rounds should be cancelled to free up funds for future grants. Lisa replied that many other grants have been cancelled but the five remaining large grants are good, valid projects. They are however “on their last legs” and will be cancelled if not completed soon.

Discussion centered on the status of existing grants in relation to the pending grant round.

- Denise Poyer suggested that Organizations should not be eligible for additional grants unless existing projects have been completed.
- Kevin Nelson thought that Organizations shouldn't be held at fault for things out of their control.
- Henry Cruciani stated that an Organization should not be punished if “the players have changed”.
- Jay Aron felt that it should be judged on a case by case basis since some organizations can work on multiple projects at the same time.
- Bob Butler thought the money from previous grants should be taken back..
- Sue Barker added that grantees on the outstanding grants list be given written notice to “move it or lose it”. They should also be given the opportunity to reapply.

Procedurally, the grants have to be scored first then the DOT is asked to authorize use of the funds.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Award Letters to successful applicants should emphasize the completion date of the grant. Status Reports should also be required.

4. Small Grants

- Friends of Ballard Park-
\$3000.00 grant for maintenance equipment.

This grant was tabled at the last meeting until a representative could clarify the grant to the Committee. Colleen McGrath, the Executive Director, was in attendance. She gave a brief overview of the project and was available to answer questions.

Roy Najecki pointed out that a power unit and attachments were requested but they aren't compatible. Colleen replied that the person responsible for maintenance advised her what to request and it was likely just an oversight.

Henry Cruciani thought that since the project is such a confined area and it will be could be years before it is needed again, this project lends itself to rental of the needed equipment.

Bill McCormick stated his concern about storage of the equipment and that it will be lost or misplaced.

Jay Aron said that he thought it has been policy of the TAC to encourage rental rather than purchase of equipment.

Colleen stated that the amount of work the Park undertakes in maintaining the trails justifies the purchase rather than frequent rental of equipment. There is past precedent of the TAC funding purchase of equipment in similar situations.

Steve Church stated that the Federal Highway Program allows the use of Recreational Trail funds for the purchase of equipment and the Onus is on the RI TAC to develop a formal policy regarding the purchase of equipment.

Kevin Nelson suggested the grant be awarded on the condition that additional quotes are provided, the equipment have identification markers, and that a use policy be established.

Sue Barker made a motion that the grant be awarded based on the conditions suggested by Kevin.

Steve Church seconded the motion.

Approved.

- Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission.
\$2575 grant request for trailhead development at Weetamoo Woods.

This is to expand the parking area at the heavily used East Road entrance.
Kevin Nelson stated that past grants are a testament to the dedication of the Commission and need for trail grants in that part of the State.

Henry Cruciani made a motion to approve the grants.

Bob Butler seconded the motion.

Approved.

- West Bay Land Trust

\$1280 for trail maintenance and repair at Meshanticut Lake Trail.

This is a heavily used urban park and Steve Wright, DEM Parks and Recreation, has forwarded a letter of recommendation.

Denise Poyer made a motion to approve the grant request.

Sue Barker seconded the motion.

Approved.

- Smithfield Land Trust

\$1360 for trail improvements at the Jim Russell preserve on Burlingame Road in Smithfield

Kevin Nelson made a motion to support the grant request.

Seconded by Sue Barker.

Approved

- Blackstone Park Conservancy

\$3000 for trail improvements & repair at Blackstone Park in Providence

It was unclear from the attached budget what all of the grant funds would be used for.

Tabled until project budget is clarified.

- Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy

\$3000.00 for trail maintenance project at Neutaconkanut Park in Providence.

Henry Cruciani motioned to approve the grant request

Seconded by Barbara Kilcup

Approved.

- Town of Coventry, Parks & Recreation Dept.

\$3000.00 for trail improvements at Foster Memorial Park

Tabled until project budget is clarified.

Next meeting April 20, 2010

Motion to Adjourn by Kevin Nelson. Seconded by Sue Barker. **Approved.**

Adjourn: 5:05